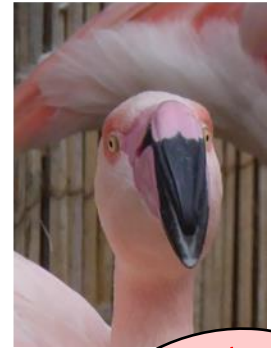
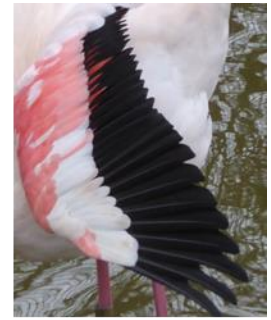


# Fast Flamingo Facts!



## Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

### European flamingo



"pink crimson wing"

The largest, most widely distributed and palest flamingo species. It has a vivid pastel pink beak and bright pink legs.

Adults can be up to 150cm tall and 4kg in weight. It is similar in body shape to the Caribbean flamingo.

It has a shallow-keeled bill, containing coarse bristles (lamellae) for sieving tiny animal and plant material from the water.

Greater flamingos use pink preen oil to cosmetically enhance their plumage pinkness!

Habitat: Coastal and marine wetlands. Salt flats, estuaries, soda lakes/ alkaline wetlands.

Distribution: Throughout Africa and into Madagascar. India and the Middle East, as well as southern Europe and the Mediterranean.

Population size: Up to 680,000 birds.

Population trend: Increasing.  
The European population of this flamingo seems to be growing fastest.

In the zoo: Common in zoological collections worldwide.

Watch them in action here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_hDMhpxXYSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hDMhpxXYSA)

INTERNATIONAL  
FLAMINGO

DAY

26<sup>th</sup> April



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